



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Eyon Biddle, Sr., 10th District

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Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager
414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

IT'S TIME FOR MILWAUKEE COUNTY TO "BAN THE BOX"

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisor Eyon Biddle, Sr., is introducing a pair of resolutions to help "ban the box" in Milwaukee County and Wisconsin. "Ban the box" legislation enables job seekers with criminal pasts to clear the first barrier to employment and demonstrate their skills, abilities and evidence of rehabilitation to prospective employers.

The legislation opposes a bill pending in the State Legislature that would prevent individuals convicted of felonies from getting jobs. Supervisor Biddle believes the bill would make it easier for employers to discriminate against individuals with felony convictions.

"Every year, an average of 3,600 Milwaukee County residents are released from correctional institutions after serving their sentences and return to the community," Supervisor Biddle said. "It is our duty to prevent recidivism and help these individuals re-enter society, find employment, and restore their lives."

One of Supervisor Biddle's resolutions calls for removing questions related to prior conviction and pending criminal charges from the initial job application for Milwaukee County employment, developing a policy for uniform background checks on all candidates selected for hire, and encouraging the State of Wisconsin and all public and private employers to follow Milwaukee County's lead in this area.

The other resolution supports a change in State law increasing the age in which an eligible criminal infraction may be expunged from age 25 to age 30. Both resolutions are expected to be considered during the County Board's September meeting cycle.

"We all know that discrimination still goes on. Banning the box diminishes discrimination and allows individuals to at least have a fair interview process. It gives these applicants hope," Supervisor Biddle added. "This is about increasing job opportunities for people from all walks of life. We must prevent ex-offenders from resorting to behaviors that can harm themselves and the community."

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